## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 28011 221806Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /095 W

O R 221756Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6381

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 28011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, GB, UK

SUBJ: PARIS MEETING ON PAN AFRICAN FORCE: FRENCH

PREFER POSTPONEMENT

REFS: A. STATE 211443. B. PARIS 25715 (NOTAL). C. STATE 212667 (NOTAL).

1. POL COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF MET WITH QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY AFTERNOON AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED PARIS MEETING ON PAN AFRICAN FORCE. AS ANTICIPATED, GEORGY SAID THAT BRITISH PREFERRED POSTPOSTPONE MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18 IN ORDER HAVE A MORE PRECISE VIEW OF ZAIRE SITUATION AND BECAUSE SENIOR RESPONSIBLE UK OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. WE INFORMED GEORGY THAT WE WERE AWARE OF CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 28011 221806Z

BRITISH POSITION, HAD INFORMED WASHINGTON, AND THAT WASHINGTON PREFERENCE WAS TO HOLD MEETING AS SCHEDULED AUGUST 28. FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, WAS UP TO GOF AS HOSTS OF MEETING. GEORGY SAID THAT UNLESS USG HAD VERY STRONG OBJECTIONS TO POSTPONEMENT, HE PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL THE BRITISH WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. THE FACT THAT THE

BRITISH HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT PARTICIPANTS EVEN AT THE JUNE 5 MEETING REINFORCED THIS INCLINATION; GEORGY SAID IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE BRITISH FULLY ENGAGED IN ORDER TO INSURE A WESTERN CONSENSUS WHICH CAN PRODUCE RESULTS. GEORGE SAID AN ADDITIONAL REASON WHY HE FAVORED POSTPONEMENT WAS UNAVAILABILITY BEFORE EARLY SEPTEMBER OF FRG AFRICAN EXPERT, MUELLER, WHOSE PARTICIPATION GEORGE VALUES.

- 2. WE TOLD GEORGY THAT IN VIEW OF FRENCH PREFERENCE WE BELIEVE WASHINGTON WOULD ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT. WE UNDERTOOK TO PROPOSE SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19 AS NEW DATES FOR THE MEETING. GEORGY SAID HE WOULD TAKE SOUNDINGS AMONG OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND LET US KNOW. REQUEST WASHINGTON REACTION TO NEW DATES.
- 3. WE INFORMED GEORGY OF OUR PREFERENCE FOR INVITING AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO THE MEETING, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THIS WOULD PRESENT CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES. GEORGY TOOK A FIRM POSITION AGAINST INVITING AFRICAN PARTICIPATION. FIRSTLY, SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AN UNPUBLICIZED MEETING WHICH GOF CONSIDERS VERY IMPORTANT. SECOND REASONS WAS THAT MENTIONED REF A, I.E., THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 28011 221806Z

AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS WOULD COME EQUIPPED WITH INFLATED LIST OF THEIR SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. ADDITIONALLY, GEORGY FELT THAT AT A MEETING SUCH AS THIS WHERE AFRICANS WOULD NECESSARILY BE DEMANDEURS THE RESULT WOULD BE AN IMPRESSION OF A PATRONIZING ATTITUDE.

- 4. GEORGY AGREED THAT AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS IN SHABA FORCE MUST BE FULLY INFORMED OF AND ENGAGED IN RESULTS OF MEETING. HIS PREFERENCE IS TO INFORM THEM IN CAPITALS, BUT THIS SHOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.
- 5. WE GAVE GEORGY ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS CONTAINED REF A. AFTER READING THEMHE SAID THAT THESE WOULD PROBABLY POSE NO PROBLEM, AND ADDED THAT THE ITEMS ON OUR EARLIER LIST HAD BEEN APPROVED ALL OF OUR PARTICIPANTS.
- 6. FYI: DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE FRENCH HAVE BILLED THIS MEETING TO THE BRITISH, GERMANS, AND BELGIANS AS A US INITIATIVE. END FYI. HARTMAN

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